

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of applying a decorative element to a window covering, the method comprising the steps of:

providing decorative element data;

physically applying the decorative element according to the decorative element data to the window covering in a retail store.
2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the decorative element is one of a color, image, pattern, and texture.
3. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of providing decorative element data includes selecting the decorative element form a database.
4. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of providing decorative element data includes scanning a sample provided by a customer.
5. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of providing decorative element data includes reading an electronic file provided by the user.
6. (original) The method of Claim 1, further including the step of displaying the decorative element applied to the window covering on a monitor.
7. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of physically applying the decorative element includes printing the decorative element onto a portion of the window covering.

8. (currently amended) A method for applying a decorative element to a window covering, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a searchable data compilation of decorative elements on a storage device;

displaying available decorative elements to a customer;

obtaining a selection from the user, the selection comprising at least one of the decorative elements contained in the data compilation;

displaying images of the selected decorative element applied to the window covering;

and

physically applying the selected decorative element to the window covering.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the selected decorative element is one of a color, an image, a pattern, and a texture.

10. (currently amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein the selected decorative element is physically applied to the window covering in a retail store.

11. (original) The method of Claim 8, further including the step of scanning a sample.

12. (original) The method of Claim 8, further including the step of accessing a file containing the searchable data compilation.

13. (original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of storing the searchable data compilation on a removable storage medium.

14. (original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the removable storage medium is a CD-ROM.

15. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the step of displaying images includes rendering at least one decorative material onto a computer model of the window covering.

16. (currently amended) A system for applying a decorative element to a window covering in a retail location, the system comprising:

a computer device configured to store and recall a decorative element data;

a printer coupled to the computer and configured to ~~apply~~ print the selected decorative element ~~to~~ onto the window covering.

17. (original) The system of Claim 16 further including a scanner configured to spectrophotometrically measure a color sample.

18. (currently amended) ~~The system of Claim 16 further comprising:~~

A system for applying a decorative element to a window covering in a retail location, the system comprising:

a computer device configured to store and recall a decorative element data;

a printer coupled to the computer and configured to print the selected decorative element ~~to~~ onto the window covering;

window covering data to display images of the decorative element applied to the window covering;

means for user selection of a window covering sample; and

a program for mapping a selected decorative element onto appropriate portions of the image of the selected window covering sample whereby the user can appreciate how the selected decorative element might look on the window covering.

19. (original) The system of Claim 16 wherein the computer is coupled to a network or an Internet server so that decorative element data from a remote location is searchable or recallable.

20. (currently amended) ~~The system of Claim 16 further including~~

A system for applying a decorative element to a window covering in a retail location, the system comprising:

a computer device configured to store and recall a decorative element data;

a printer coupled to the computer and configured to print the selected decorative element to onto the window covering; and

a magazine configured to feed window covering elements to the printer.

21. (currently amended) ~~The system of Claim 16 further including~~

A system for applying a decorative element to a window covering in a retail location, the system comprising:

a computer device configured to store and recall a decorative element data;

a printer coupled to the computer and configured to print the selected decorative element to onto the window covering; and

a curing apparatus configured to cure the decorative element.

22. (original) The system of Claim 16 wherein the decorative element is one of a color, pattern, image, and texture.

23. (currently amended) A system for customizing a window covering, the system comprising: a memory storage device configured to store and recall decorative element data files and textual information coordinated with the decorative element data files;

a display configured to display the decorative element data files in response to actions of a user to recreate a representative image of the decorative element sample;

an input device for accepting choices from the user;

a processor configured to implement data manipulation and operate the display, input device, and storage device;

rendering program for rendering decorative elements chosen by the user;

a printer configured to physically apply the selected decorative element to the window covering.

24. (original) The system of Claim 23, wherein the decorative element is one of a color, image, pattern, and texture.

25. (original) The system of Claim 23 further including a scanner configured to spectrophotometrically measure a color sample.

26. (original) The system of Claim 25, wherein each color contains RGB values corresponding to the actual spectrophotometrically measured sample.

27. (original) The system of Claim 23 further comprising:

window covering data to display images of the decorative element applied to the window covering on a monitor;

program for mapping a selected decorative element onto appropriate portions of the image of the selected window covering sample whereby the user can appreciate how the selected decorative element might look on the window covering.